AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the above-identified application

Listing of Claims:

1 (Previously Presented). A method of designing a report file used for automatic report generation, the method comprising:

defining, in response to user input specifying a structure of the report file, a first report group comprised of one or more page definitions, the first report group being of a first group type selected from among a plurality of predefined group types;

presenting, via a user interface, representations of a plurality of predefined data sources;

receiving, via the user interface, input for selecting, from among the plurality of representations of predefined data sources, a first data source for association with the first report group wherein each of said predefined data sources comprises a predefined database query;

presenting, via the user interface, representations of a plurality of fields;

including one or more fields selected from among the plurality of fields within each of the one or more page definition; and

creating an association between content from the first data source and each of the one or more fields in response to user input received via the user interface.

2 (Original). The method of claim 1 further including associating one or more properties with each of the one or more fields.

3 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of predefined group types consist of form, grid and pivot table.

4 (Original). The method of claim 1 wherein the first report group is specified to also include a second report group.

5 (Original).   The method of claim 1 wherein the first group type is a pivot table type comprised of a plurality of rows and a plurality of columns, the associating including associating the first data source with the plurality of rows and a second data source with the plurality of columns.

6 (Original).   The method of claim 1 wherein the specifying an association includes selecting content items from a fields tree displayed to a user.

7 (Previously Presented).   A report generation method comprising:

creating a report file defining a report structure based upon at least one report group comprised of or more page definitions, the report file containing information identifying one or more data sources associated with the at least one report group and field descriptive information relating to a plurality of fields selected via a user interface for inclusion within the one or more page definitions wherein the one or more data sources are selected from among representations of a plurality of predefined data sources presented for selection via the user interface wherein each of the plurality of predefined data sources comprises a predefined database query;

retrieving data source information from the one or more data sources consistent with an association, established in response to field content information received through the user interface, between content from the data source and the plurality of fields; and

rendering an output report document based upon the report file and the data source information, the output report document including one or more output report pages formatted consistently with each of the one or more page definitions.

8 (Original).   The method of claim 7 further including prompting a user to enter parameter values associated with the plurality of fields and receiving the parameter values entered by the user.

9 (Original).   The method of claim 7 wherein the output report document comprises a PDF document.

10 (Original). The method of claim 9 wherein the rendering includes automatically generating additional pages of the output report document as necessary to incorporate the entirety of the data source information into the output report document.

11 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein the creating includes specifying a first report group and a second report group and wherein a first set of the one or more page definitions are associated with the first report group and a second set of the one or more page definitions are associated with the second report group.

12 (Original). The method of claim 11 wherein the creating includes associating a first data source with the first report group and a second data source with the second report group.

13 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein the field descriptive information includes formatting information.

14 (Original). The method of 13 wherein the field descriptive information further includes field coordinate information.

15 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 7 wherein the rendering includes concatenating first and second values corresponding to first and second items of the data source information.

16 (Original). The method of claim 7 wherein a first of the plurality of fields comprises a query field, the data source information including a value associated with the query field.

17 (Original). The method of claim 16 wherein a second of the plurality of fields comprises an aggregation field having a value based upon the value of the first of the plurality of fields and a third of the plurality of fields.

18 (Original). The method of claim 16 wherein the second of the plurality of fields comprises a calculated field having a value produced by execution of a script.

19 (Previously Presented). A report generation system comprising:

a client unit configured to execute plural client components including a report explorer application and a report designer application enabling selection, from among representations of multiple predefined data sources and representations of multiple report fields presented via a user interface wherein each of said predefined data sources comprises a predefined database query, of one or more data sources and one or more report fields used in connection with report production, the report designer application containing a report rendering module;

a server unit configured to execute plural server components including a business logic module and a report writer module wherein the report writer module is configured to cooperate with the client unit in producing a report file; and

a database server in communication with the server unit, the database server providing content information to the server unit in connection with production by the report rendering module of an output report document based upon the report file wherein the report designer application further enables creation of an association between portions of the content information and the one or more report fields.

20 (Original). The system of claim 19 wherein the report file is based upon a report structure containing at least a first report group comprised of one or more page definitions.

21 (Original). The system of claim 20 wherein the report file includes a database query reflecting an association between a first data source and the first report group, the first data source being furnished by the database server.

22 (Original). The system of claim 20 wherein the report structure is based upon an association between one or more fields and each of the one or more page definitions.

23 (Original). The system of claim 22 wherein the report file includes descriptive information associated with the one or more fields.

24 (Previously Presented). A computer-readable medium encoded with a report file used by a computer in connection with generation of an output report document, the report file comprising:

a database query identifying a data source selected from among representations of multiple predefined data sources presented for selection via a user interface, wherein each of said predefined data sources comprises a predefined database query;

data filter information defining filter operations to be performed upon source data retrieved from the data source wherein the data filter information is defined at least in part by user selection of one of more elements of the data filter information via the user interface;

descriptive information specifying the location and appearance of the source data within pages of the output report document; and

textual data to be displayed upon the pages of the output report document.

25 (Original). The report file of claim 24 wherein the database query reflects an association between the data source and a first report group comprised of at least a first page, the first report group being of a first group type selected from among a plurality of predefined group types.

26 (Original). The report file of claim 25 wherein the first report group is further comprised of a second report group.

27 (Original). The report file of claim 25 wherein the first group type is of a pivot table type.

28 (Original). The report file of claim 25 further including user defined script information.

29 (Previously Presented). A computer-readable medium encoded with a report file used by a computer in connection with generation of an output report document, the report file comprising:

a first database query identifying a first data source selected from among representations of a plurality of predefined data sources presented for selection via a user interface, the first database query reflecting a predefined and user-specified association between the first data source and a first report group;

a second database query identifying a second data source, the second database query reflecting a user-specified association between the second data source and a second report group;

data filter information defining filter operations to be performed upon source data retrieved from the first data source and from the second data source wherein the data filter information includes a filter expression defined at least in part by user selection of one of more elements of the filter expression via the user interface;

descriptive information specifying the location and appearance of the source data within pages of the output report document; and

input parameter definitions corresponding to input parameter information to be provided to the report file by a user.

30 (Original). The report file of claim 29 further including textual data information corresponding to textual data to be displayed upon the pages of the output report document.

31 (Original). The report of claim 29 wherein the first report group is comprised of at least a first page, the first report group being of a first group type selected from among a plurality of predefined group types.

32 (Original). The report file of claim 29 wherein the first report group is further comprised of a third report group.

33 (Previously Presented). A method of designing a report file used for automatic report generation, the method comprising:

specifying a structure of the report file by defining a first report group comprised of one or more page definitions;

selecting, from among representations of a plurality of predefined user-defined data sources presented for selection via a user interface, a first user-defined data source for association with the first report group wherein each of said predefined user-defined data sources comprises a predefined database query; and

specifying, via input received through the user interface, an association between content from the first user-defined data source and portions of each of the one or more page definitions.

34 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 33 wherein the portions of each of the one or more page definitions correspond to fields, the method further including identifying one or more of the fields for inclusion within each of the one or more page definitions.

35 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 34 further including associating one or more properties with each of the one or more fields.

36 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 33 wherein the first report group is a group type selected from among the following plurality of predefined group types: form, grid and pivot table.

37 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 33 wherein the first report group is specified to also include a second report group.

38 (Previously Presented). The method of claim 1 wherein representations of said plurality of available data sources are presented in a list via the user interface.

39 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 7 wherein representations of said plurality of available data sources are presented in a list via the user interface.

40 (Previously Presented).   The method of claim 33 wherein representations of said plurality of available user-defined data sources are presented in a list via the user interface.